



STATE OF INDIANA

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Full Board Scheduling Changes

Beginning with the December settings, the Board is going to be changing the protocol used in setting Full Board hearings. More appeals are being filed than ever before, and more are settling at the last minute. This leaves our scheduler shuffling cases and the Board with too few hearings to take up the time allotted on many occasions. I would, of course, prefer that all settlements occur at least a week before Full Board hearings, but I am not an idealist and a settlement is still the best solution at any stage of the game. I have been hesitant to impose upon the bar, but the current scheduling methodology doesn't suit anyone's needs.

We are going to set the cases in two blocks of time and pin down the schedule as the Full Board dates get closer. Notices will be sent out at least 30 days before the hearing date, setting cases at either 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. on the Monday of Full Boards. Cases in the 2:00 block are subject to being bumped over for hearing until Tuesday morning, if enough cases do not come off the schedule for Monday. Final schedule settings similar to what are now used will be sent out by e-mail the Friday before Full Boards. Failure to attend a Tuesday hearing due to another obligation will be treated as the one continuance allowed per side, depending on the party unable to attend.

If we determine this system results in undue delay in hearing appeals, we will set another Full Board date toward the end of July.

I welcome your comments. Thanks for making my job something I enjoy every day. I hope these changes do not negatively affect the pleasure you take from your work.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Hamilton".

Linda Peterson Hamilton